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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0969/72
15 Sept 1972Olszowski's Visit to West Germany

Polish Foreign Minister Olszowski's trip to West Germany this week went off smoothly and without incident or surprises. As expected, the decision to establish diplomatic relations was announced jointly on 14 September, and the two countries agreed to open embassies as of that date. The timing of the appointment of ambassadors, however, is still a matter of speculation: two versions of the text of the joint communique state that ambassadors will be named "shortly" or "in the near future." We remain skeptical and continue to believe that the actual appointments will not come until more progress is made in solving some of the bilateral issues between the two countries and possibly not until the Warsaw Pact gives Poland the green light.

The communique slid over the very important issue of identification and resettlement of ethnic Germans in West Germany with one sentence: "Also discussed at the talks were humanitarian problems and questions relative to the traffic of people between the two countries." The remainder of the communique was pro forma and general in nature. The only mention of larger East-West issues--which Olszowski reputedly was anxious to discuss--was a mild statement that the two ministers "agreed that present developments...favor the start of multilateral talks in preparation for a conference on security and cooperation in Europe."

Olszowski departed Bonn as planned, laid a wreath at the memorial site of the former concentration camp in Dachau on Friday, September 15; then returned home.

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Macedonians Tried for Secessionist Activity

The trial of three Macedonians for seeking financial support and recruits for secessionist activities, opened in Skopje on 11 September. The defendants are a sales clerk, a member of the editorial office of Prosvjeta and an employee of the Skopje publishing house Kultura. The three are charged with seeking to establish contacts with emigres to further their secessionist goals.

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With all eyes on the emotion-packed trial of the Zagreb student leaders, problems with Macedonian nationalists have gone practically unnoticed. If, however, it can be proven that the three attempted to organize a movement to detach Macedonia from Yugoslavia, the trial would be the most serious dealing with nationalist excesses to date. Not even the defendants in the Croatian trials have been formally charged with secessionist activity.

The trial has implications for Yugoslav relations with both the East and West. The wording of the press coverage indicates the emigres were in the West, yet Macedonian secessionism implies Bulgarian involvement. The West is already in hot water with Belgrade thanks to stepped-up Ustashi activity. The new twist would be the negative effect on Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations, which of late have shown improvement.

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Yugoslavs Condemn Military Exercises

With Warsaw Pact maneuvers underway in Czechoslovakia, the Yugoslav party weekly, Komunist, has taken the opportunity to condemn all military exercises. Arguing that maneuvers are increasingly taking on an aspect of "political blackmail and psychological pressure," Komunist calls for UN control over such military activity.

It was only last year that Soviet displeasure with so-called Chinese inroads in the Balkans, was reflected in a Pact exercise in Hungary and the threat of maneuvers in Bulgaria. In order to guard against such pressure in the future, the paper proposes that all countries should inform the UN Secretary General in advance of military maneuvers which involve units stronger than one division of land troops or the equivalent air or naval forces. Such prior knowledge would be "heartily welcomed by all peace-loving peoples throughout the world."

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